

Film as Material. The films included are:

Film in Which There Appear Sprocket Holes, Edge Lettering, Dirt Particles, etc. (Owen Land, 1965/66, 16mm, 4.5 min.)  
Le Retour à La Raison (Man Ray, 1923, ?, 3 min.) --> Any idea where to find a print of this? (neither Canyon nor the Coop seem to have it)  
Kaleidoscope/Colour Flight (Len Lye, 1935/1938, 16mm, 8 min.)  
Color Cry (Len Lye, 1952, 16mm, 3 min.)  
Fuses (Carolee Schneeman, 1964-67, 16mm, 25 min.)  
Mothlight (Stan Brakhage, 1963, 16mm, 3 min.)  
Chinese Series (Stan Brakhage, 2003, 16mm, 2.5 min.)  
Berlin Horse (Malcolm LeGrice, 1970, 16mm, 7 min.)  
Removed (Naomi Uman, 1999, 16mm, 6 min.)  
Light Is Calling (Bill Morrison, 2004, 35mm, 8 min.)

In the second half of the 1960s experimental film critic P. Adam Sitney identified a new trend in avant garde film which he called "structural film". The name, more of a reflection of the trendy influence of a theoretical discourse on structuralism indebted to french anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, stuck. But it could have been any one of a number of other terms. If we look at the work that was produced at that time, we might have easily called it minimalist film with reference to the tendency in US painting at that time: art in which, following the explosiveness of abstract impressionism, drew back into a stripped down and more limited direction:

In film this followed post war work of intense lyricism, interior psychological exploration of dreams and nightmares, surreal dramatic narratives, and pop culture appropriation.

This series is curated with an emphasis on physics and perception. And this first show stresses the materiality of film. This allows a more historical scan which demonstrates that earlier examples exist: Ray, Lye.

What was the impetus?

One in making, you get to the material stratum of the film. splicing, the act of cutting and pasting for editing. part of the close attention to all details.

Part of it narrow restriction of art to formal devices. art is epistemological, explores its own nature. removal of humans, drama, etc. storytelling